

A NEW GENUS OF HARPACTORINAE (HETEROPTERA : REDUVIIDAE) FROM SOUTHERN INDIA¹

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(With a text-figure)

A new reduviid genus, namely *Neovillanovanus* gen. nov. and a new species, *N. macrotrichiatus* sp. nov. of the division Euagorasaria of the sub-family Harpactorinae is described and illustrated. A key to the Indian genera of the division Euagorasaria is also given.

INTRODUCTION

Distant (1902, 1910) has defined the division Euagorasaria as a group of genera which have as common characters: the head armed with a spine or tubercle behind the base of each antenna; all are more or less elongate insects and have the lateral pronotal angles spinous or at least prominent. He has described 16 genera. In the present paper, a new genus *Neovillanovanus* and a new species *Neovillanovanus macrotrichiatus* having the above divisional characters are described and illustrated. All measurements are given in millimetres.

KEY TO THE INDIAN GENERA OF THE DIVISION EUAGORASARIA OF THE SUB-FAMILY HARPACTORINAE:

A key has been formulated to identify the Indian genera of the division Euagorasaria based on our examinations and also from the information given in Distant's FAUNA OF BRITISH INDIA volumes.

1. Anterior lobe of pronotum posteriorly bituberculated; anterior femorae strongly incrassated; anterior tibiae incurved and spined before apex *Rihirbus* Stal
Anterior lobe of pronotum posteriorly not bituberculated; anterior femorae not or a little incrassated; anterior tibiae simple and not inwardly spined before apex 2

2. Anterior lobe of pronotum prominently tuberculous on each side *Isyndus* Stal
Anterior lobe of pronotum not prominently tuberculous on each side 3
3. Pronotum discally armed 11
Pronotum discally unarmed 4
4. Anterolateral pronotal margin with one tubercle; anterior femorae and tibiae longly acutely spined *Gallobelgicus* Distant
Anterolateral pronotal margin without tubercle; anterior femorae and tibiae unarmed 5
5. First rostral segment considerably shorter than the second 6
First rostral segment longer than the second 7
6. Antennal base with a tubercle behind; lateral angles of posterior lobe of pronotum armed with a long spine *Euagoras* Burmeister
Antennal base spined behind; posterior lobe of pronotum unarmed *Macracanthopsis* Reuter
7. Head shorter than pronotum 8
Head about as long as pronotum 9
8. Ante-ocular and post-ocular areas of head about equal in length; lateral pronotal angles prominent but not spinous . . *Cydnocoris* Stal.
Post-ocular area of head about half as long as ante-ocular area; lateral pronotal angles spinously produced 10
9. First rostral segment very much longer than the second; pronotum, scutellum, corium and clavus clothed with clusters of yellowish hairs . . *Neovillanovanus* gen. nov.

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- First and second rostral segment subequal; pronotum, scutellum, corium and clavus devoid of yellowish clusters of hairs
 *Endochus* Stal
- 10. Posterior angles of pronotum longly porrectly spinous *Serendiba* Distant
 Posterior angles of pronotum shortly spinous *Villanovanus* Distant
- 11. Only posterior lobe of pronotum discally armed 12
 Both anterior and posterior lobes of pronotum discally armed 17
- 12. Posterior lobe of pronotum discally spined 13
 Posterior lobe of pronotum discally bituberculated *Nagusta* Stal
- 13. Head about as long as pronotum 14
 Head shorter than pronotum 15
- 14. Post-ocular area little longer than ante-ocular area; hemelytra passing the abdominal apex *Platerus* Distant
 Post-ocular area much longer than ante-ocular area; hemelytra not quite reaching the abdominal apex *Lanca* Distant
- 15. Scutellum unarmed *Epidaus* Stal
 Scutellum armed with a suberect spine . . . 16
- 16. Scutellum with a single suberect spine; first rostral segment much longer than second *Alcmena* Stal
 Scutellum with two spines; first and second rostral segments unequal. *Occamus* Distant
- 17. Ante-ocular and post-ocular areas of head about equal in length; lateral margins of abdomen dilated *Brassivola* Distant
 Post-ocular area longer than ante-ocular area of head; abdominal margins not dilated *Bartacus* Distant

Neovillanovanus gen. nov.

Body elongate; head about as long as pronotum, spined on each side behind the base of each antenna; post-ocular longer but not quite twice as long as ante-ocular portion; antennae with a first segment equal to the posterior femora, pronotum with the rugulose posterior

lobe nearly twice as long as the sculptured anterior lobe clothed with yellowish hairs in cluster; disc of posterior lobe unarmed; anterior femorae a little incrassated, and as long as the scape; anterior tibiae a little shorter than anterior femorae and moderately curved.

The new genus is allied to *Villanovanus* by the following characters: anterior pronotal lobe strongly sculptured, anterior tibiae moderately curved and a little shorter than posterior femorae. It can be recognised from *Villanovanus* by the following characters: head as long as pronotum; post-ocular area longer but not quite twice as long as ante-ocular portion; pronotum, prosternum, disc of scutellum, corium and clavus clothed with a thick cluster of yellowish short hairs.

Neovillanovanus macrotrichiatus sp. nov. (Fig. 1)

Piceous; apex of head beneath, rostrum (except extreme apex), basal margin of pronotum, apex of scutellum, lateral corium and veins; and connexivum (except piceous spot) pale luteous; markings in the scape and pedicel brightly ochraceous.

Head elongated (4.4) cylindrical, post-ocular area (2.5) longer than ante-ocular area (1.8) and are demarcated by a transverse sulcus in between the compound eyes; compound eyes protruding laterally; a pair of lateral ocelli located on a slightly elevated portion well behind the eyes; a prominent spine at the base of each antenna; antennae long and slender (25.8) scape and pedicel annulated, finely pilose, scape the longest (10.4), second flagellar segment the shortest (3.3); first rostral segment longer (2.6) than the second (1.5), third segment the shortest (0.7), scarcely pilose.

Pronotum subtriangular, transverse before the middle: pronotum with the posterior lobe (2.5) nearly twice as long as anterior lobe (1.3), the latter strongly sculptured and basally medially impressed anterolateral angles rounded; posterolateral areas posterior lobe with horizontally spined (0.7) posterolateral angles slightly

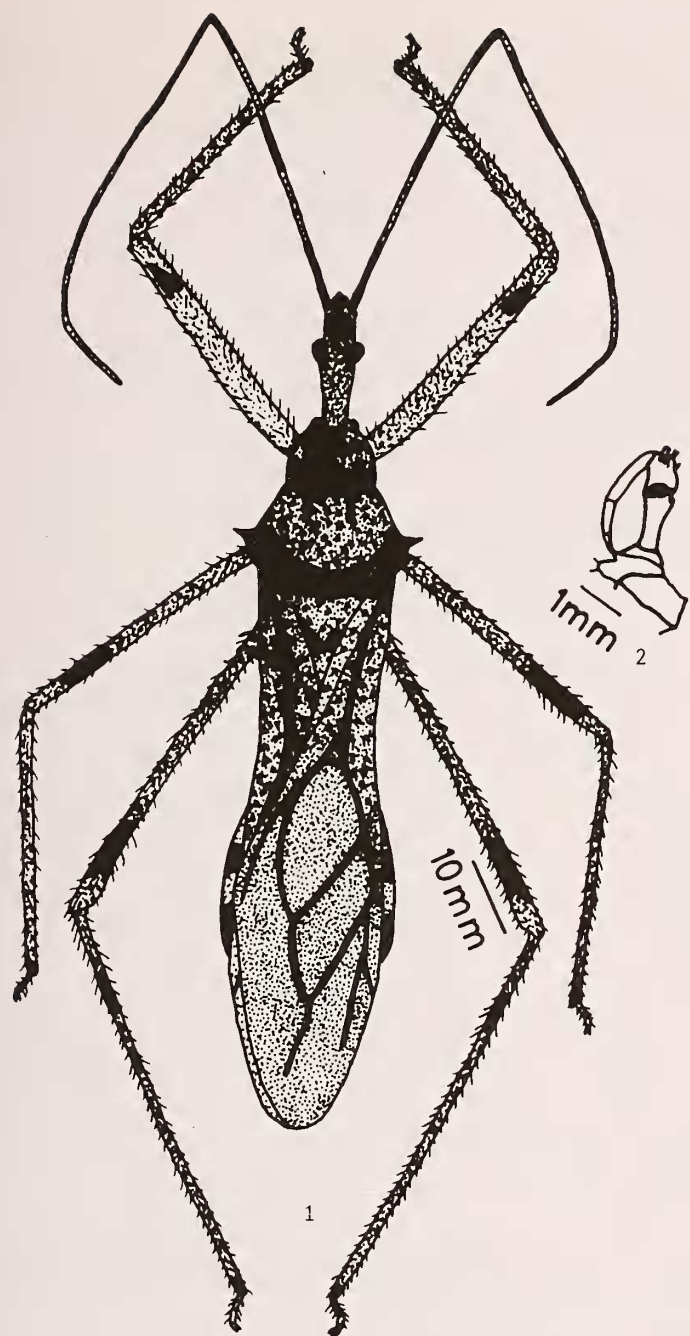


Fig. 1. *Neovillanovanus macrotrichiatus* sp. nov.
1. female, 2. head and pronotum lateral aspect.

tuberculous; pronotum discally unarmed, scutellum (1.8) triangular, its apex obtuse, hemelytra (20.6) passing the abdominal apex; veins distinct on corium and membrane; membrane

slightly bronzy and strongly rugulose; pronotum, prosternum, disc of scutellum, corium and clavus clothed with thick clusters of short yellowish hair; legs long and slender; femora apically and hind tibiae basally annulated; fore femora (9.2) a little incrassated and slightly longer than fore tibia (8.5); mid leg the shortest, hind leg the longest; tarsus three segmented; first segment the shortest (0.2) and third the longest (0.4); finely pilose.

Abdomen (14.8) a little elongated, narrowed basally; dilated medially and rounded apically; scarcely pilose; segmentation clear; connexivum narrow and spotted.

Type: Holotype : female, collected from Lower Kodayar, a tropical rain forest of Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu, on 6 May 1988, India. Allotype : not collected. Holotype is at present pinned and deposited at the reduviid collections of Entomology Research Unit, St. Xavier's college, Palayankottai, South India.

Etymology: The generic name *Neovillanovanus* is given from its affinities to the genus *Villanovanus* and specifically it is named *macrotrichiatus* from the presence of the peculiar clusters of yellow hairs in pronotum, prosternum, disc of scutellum, corium and clavus.

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